

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A sputtering target that is a perovskite oxide represented by the chemical formula of $Ra_{1-x}A_xBO_{3-\alpha}$, wherein Ra represents a rare earth element consisting of Y, Sc and lanthanoid; A represents Ca, Mg, Ba or Sr; B represents Mn; and $0 < x \leq 0.5$, and wherein the target has a relative density of 95% or more, an average crystal grain size of $100\mu\text{m}$ or less, a resistivity of $10\Omega\text{cm}$ or less, and a purity of 3N or more.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein A represents Mg.

Claim 5 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein A represents Ba.

Claim 6 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein Ra represents Sc.

Claim 7 (new): A sputtering target according to claim 1, wherein Ra represents Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, or Dy.